

James Bruce will retire after having 42 years in the Kentucky House of Representatives.

I have known Representative Bruce for most of my life, and he taught me the ropes of government and politics early on when I served with him for one term in the Kentucky House from 1974–1975. Upon arriving in Frankfort, I learned quickly that Representative Bruce was one of the most effective legislators in Kentucky. He had the respect and admiration of his colleagues both Democrat and Republican, and when he told you something you could count on it. Many Governors have relied on Representative Bruce to get their agendas through the legislature.

Back home in the 9th District, he was legendary as someone who seldom if ever had an opponent during an election year, and who was faithful in delivering to his district. Much of the progress in agriculture, infrastructure, and economic development in Representative Bruce's district is in large part attributable to his skill, seniority, and effectiveness in Frankfort. I am confident that if you asked Representative Bruce about his success he would attribute it to his lovely wife Janie who has been at his side for nearly every trip between Hopkinsville and Frankfort and whom many have said that with Jim and Janie we had two for one.

Mr. Speaker, 2007 will mark the end of an era in the Kentucky General Assembly and the 9th House District will miss the presence of Representative James E. Bruce. He leaves large shoes behind to fill.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE UNIVERSITY OF REDLANDS

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the University of Redlands on the centennial of its founding. From its first graduating class of three students to the present-day student body of 4,100, this school has developed a reputation as a top-quality small university.

At the turn of the last century, Redlands and the surrounding communities were home to the booming navel orange industry. The lure of agricultural wealth and the beautiful climate of the San Bernardino Valley attracted hundreds of sophisticated families from the East Coast and Midwest. Many of these "colonists" brought a tradition of fostering civic good works to their new home, and by the early 1900s they were seeking a new college to serve the community.

City residents subscribed more than \$50,000 and convinced the American Baptists to locate a new university in Redlands rather than Los Angeles. Chartered in 1907, the university admitted its first students in 1909 and graduated its first class—of three students—in 1910. It now boasts more than 45,000 alumni from around the world. More than 35 percent of its students are from historically under-represented groups.

The University of Redlands today has more than 200 professors teaching in 46 majors and programs, and an additional 200 adjunct fac-

ulty providing expertise to its School of Business and School of Education. Graduate programs include music, communicative disorders and geographic information systems, and a Doctorate of Leadership for Educational Justice. The university has been ranked among the top liberal-arts colleges in the West in a number of surveys.

I am proud to say that the relationship between the university and the community remains strong. The university was one of the first educational institutions in the country to require community service as a condition of graduation. Today, over 80,000 community service hours are provided annually by students to local, regional, national and international agencies and organizations. The innovative School of Education has prepared thousands of new teachers to serve our youth.

Mr. Speaker, the University of Redlands will soon begin a year-long celebration of its centennial, which will be highlighted by the entry of a university float in the 2007 Tournament of Roses Parade, and will continue with a series of events commemorating 100 years of excellence and community involvement. Please join me in congratulating the trustees, faculty, staff and students on their achievement, and wish them well in their next 100 years.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY AUDIT ACT OF 2006

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Intelligence Community Audit Act of 2006.

Representative ZOE LOFGREN (D-CA) has joined me in introducing this important measure. I am also pleased to report that a companion bill will be introduced in the Senate by DANIEL K. AKAKA (D-IL), FRANK LAUTENBERG (D-NJ).

This bill, the Intelligence Community Audit Act of 2006, reaffirms the authority of the Comptroller General of the United States and head of the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct for Congress audits and evaluations of the intelligence community—including audits and evaluations pertaining to financial transactions, programs, and information sharing and other activities. It also prescribes the security procedures that GAO must follow in conducting audits for congressional intelligence oversight committees of intelligence sources and methods, or covert actions.

There is a pressing need for this legislation. With the passage of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, the federal government now encompasses 19 distinct components that have intelligence responsibilities. Ensuring that these components—which range from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence to the Department of Homeland Security to the Department of Treasury—are cooperating and performing their missions effectively is critical to our national security and winning the war on terrorism.

But it is not just federal coordination and cooperation which is at issue. There is also a pressing need for state and local law enforce-

ment officials to get the information they need to protect our constituents. Unfortunately, this has not happened. In a recent survey, the National Governor's Association noted that fully 70 percent of state homeland security directors are dissatisfied with the specificity of homeland security information they receive from federal sources, and the fully 55 percent who are disappointed with its actionable quality. Our state law enforcement officials need information to protect our constituents.

And we in Congress need information to conduct our oversight functions. The availability of information to appropriate congressional committees is a paramount concern for this nation's system of checks and balances. The ability of the GAO to conduct thorough and nonpartisan reviews is well known. But what is not well known is the hurdles they sometimes face in conducting oversight. Earlier this year, shortly after GAO released a report on federal government policies relating to the sharing of terrorism-related and sensitive but unclassified (SBU) information (GAO-06-385). Specifically, the DNI declined to comment on a draft version of the report because it considered GAO's work in this non-sensitive area a "review of intelligence activities" that was "beyond GAO's purview." But this bill makes it clear that the DNI cannot evade Congressional oversight by lumping the sharing of unclassified information and other non-sensitive matters together with the kinds of intelligence activities that understandably must be held to a stricter standard.

This bill makes it clear that Congress has a real and continuing interest in reviews of the basic functions of the intelligence community, such as sharing of information with state and local law enforcement officials and transportation security. The events of 911 made it clear that systemic weaknesses in these areas can cost lives.

I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor this bill.

AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY AND SECURITY OF LEBANON AND THE LEBANESE PEOPLE

SPEECH OF

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2006

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the amended version of H. Res. 1017, introduced by my colleague TOM LANTOS, which affirms support for the sovereignty and security of Lebanon and the Lebanese people.

Mr. Speaker, what this resolution now does is urge the Government of Lebanon to request assistance from the international community for military and other forms of support in securing their border with Syria, in order to end the flow of weapons to Hezbollah.

I want to thank Chairman HYDE for his instrumental role in negotiating language that addresses these concerns and enables the Government of Lebanon to engage and work closely with the international community so as to prevent another crisis in the region.

This resolution recognizes the courageous efforts made by many Lebanese in their independent uprising on March 14, 2005 and commends the democratically elected Government of Lebanon for their ongoing efforts to restore

sovereignty and security throughout all its territory.

Despite the remarkable achievements of the so-called Cedar Revolution, the Government of Lebanon continues to experience challenges to its rule. Targeted killings of public figures and the recent conflict between Hezbollah and Israel illustrate the dangers to Lebanon's stability. Furthermore, the increasing polarization and divide of the country's confessional communities demonstrates the need for a serious national dialogue that will deal with Lebanon's domestic struggles.

The provocative unilateral actions implemented by Hezbollah this past summer is evidence of the destructive influences Syria and Iran continue to play in Lebanon. The people of Lebanon and their government did not have any say in the destruction and heartbreak that was imposed upon their nation, yet they must be the ones to pay the price. In a clear indication that Hezbollah is willing to use its weapons internally, unless the current form of government is changed, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said he would only consider giving up its weapons when a strong, capable and just state was in place. This would strongly undermine Lebanon's democratic structures and could potentially lead to civil war and instability in the whole region.

Lebanon seeks to build itself up once again from beneath the ashes of war and destruction. In the absence of a regional peace, this may very well be the last opportunity to save Lebanon from a failed state scenario.

The United States has a vital interest in ensuring the security of a liberal democratic regime. It is important that United States assistance to Lebanon play a strategic role in strengthening Lebanon's central governing institutions that will ultimately lead to an empowered government that is able to meet the demands of all its citizens and comply with its international commitments and the major themes in this resolution.

In addition, to security assistance that enables the Lebanese Armed Forces to secure its borders, assistance needs to be targeted toward the passage of a new electoral law and increasing reforms in the Ministry of Justice. The electoral commission has submitted their review and now the Lebanese parliament needs to respond. A more representative electoral law will defy the modes of traditional sectarian leadership in Lebanon that have led to deadlock and stalemate.

These steps are vital to restoring and maintaining Lebanon's sovereignty and security by reducing the influence of Iran and Syria over Hezbollah and contributing to a broader representation of all Lebanese.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time and look forward to the passage of this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO THE NELSON TENNIS FOUNDATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the efforts and accomplishments of the Nelson Tennis Foundation and support the eighth annual Nel-

son Scholarship Tennis Classic which will be held in Georgetown, Texas, on October 20–22, 2006. This nonprofit foundation, named in honor of Jane and Charles “Coach” Nelson was established to support the game of tennis in the community of Georgetown, Texas. Charles and Jane exemplify a love for the game of tennis and a dedication to education. Combining these two passions, the Nelson Foundation has helped eligible high school seniors in the Georgetown Independent School District pursue their dreams for a college education. Since 1999, the Nelson Foundation has been able to award scholarships to 17 deserving student athletes through the proceeds from the tennis classic.

The Nelsons are retired educators with over 35 years of teaching and coaching experience in public schools. Both Charles and Jane began playing the game of tennis as teenagers in Huntsville, Texas. After several years of teaching and coaching in both Texas and New York, the Nelsons returned home to central Texas where Charles took over as head tennis coach at Round Rock High School for 4 years. This was followed by 3 years as the head tennis coach at Westwood High School in Round Rock and 7 years working with the Southwestern University tennis program. Both Jane and Charles are active in playing tournament tennis and remain outstanding contributors to their community. Through the years, they have been teammates, tennis partners, and friends to so many in the Georgetown and Williamson County area.

The Nelsons have been members of the Berry Creek Racquet Club in Georgetown where they have been involved in the club's Pro-Am Annual Tennis Tournaments. After several years, this tournament was renamed the Nelson Tennis Scholarship Classic for which the Nelson Tennis Foundation was established.

The Nelson Foundation embodies community, fellowship, and a love for the game of tennis. All of these are at the heart of Charles and Jane Nelson and typify the generosity and character of Georgetown, Texas.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LEO DIEHL

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, it's been said that the world goes on because a few people in every generation believe in it utterly, accept it unquestionably, underwrite it with their lives. Leo Diehl was one such man.

A community is gathering together in Harwich today to celebrate Leo's remarkable life that took him from Beacon Hill to the Halls of Congress. Those who remember him recall his wit, tenacity, dignity, compassion, irascibility, loyalty, and most importantly, his lust for life.

Diagnosed with polio at the age of 6, Leo never let his infirmity get in the way of living. Never one for sitting on the sidelines, he was determined to do all the things the other kids in Charlestown were doing. He was a formidable athlete—pitching 27 innings in a sandlot baseball game or playing goalie for the neighborhood hockey team. He refused confinement in a wheelchair and the pity of others.

In later life, he would say the experience of losing his legs and learning to use crutches to walk gave him the grace to understand the struggles that so many poor and working-class families endure on a daily basis. He reminded people that his brain, eyes, ears and, most importantly, his mouth still worked. Leo used them all to right wrongs where he saw them and to speak up, even stand-up, for those who didn't have a voice, who weren't as strong or as brave as he was.

Elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in the same year as Tip O'Neill, the two men became fast friends and allies. Later, when Leo would lose his seat, he would begin a storied career in the Commonwealth's tax department, eventually rising to tax commissioner.

Then, the call came. Newly elected Majority Whip, and his old friend, Tip O'Neill, wanted him to come to Washington, DC. He needed a good right-hand, a conscience and a confidant. The rest, they say, is history.

He dined with kings and queens, prime ministers and cardinals, but never forgot his working class roots. He was a constant presence in this House; a role-model of character and integrity for Members and staff alike. Many called him the “watch-dog”; lots of other people called him other things—usually behind his back. Regardless, at the end of the day, everyone had the greatest respect for Leo—a man who served this institution well and faithfully.

In later years, he would raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for charity with his good friend and with the help of those he inspired.

St. Luke reminds us that to those to whom much is given, much is required—and should be expected. In the case of Leo Diehl, he gave as good as he got. Now he's in a place, joined with his wife Grace, family and friends; made whole and perfect in His sight—and most likely still helping his friend, his Speak-ah, Tom make the streets of heaven a better place.

ESTHER MARTINEZ NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES PRESERVATION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, there is an urgent need to protect and preserve Native American languages. In my state of Minnesota, it is becoming more difficult to find elders to teach the Ojibwe language—the fourth most spoken Native language in North America.

The facts cannot be ignored—decades of federal restrictions on the instruction and use of Native languages led to their deliberate decline.

Despite treaties and laws and executive orders that call for the preservation and incorporation of Native language and culture in education—we are living at a time when Native American languages and culture are being eroded.

Title VII—which exists to ensure Native children receive Native language and culture instruction—has been reduced or reallocated to